

**FINAL RECOMMENDATION****Recommendation of the Action Plan Team: CORE Mission**

**State of Issue #:** 3.9 – Existing curriculum may not be at the forefront emphasizing and providing leadership regarding leading-edge issues; the development process must be shortened to meet the needs of customers.

**Recommendation #: R-9**

Summary: Evaluate existing State programs and private sector training/educational courses and integrate them into current NFA offering.

Recommendation: The NFA has instituted a new program to address this issue – the “State Fire Training Course Endorsement Program.”

Background: State fire service training systems need courses that USFA’s NFA, due to time and resource constraints, is unable to develop. The State Fire Training Course Endorsement Program recognizes that many State-developed courses may be equivalent to NFA courses in both quality and content.

The endorsement agreement states that the NFA and State fire service training systems have recognized a set of criteria and a process to have selected courses endorsed as an NFA course. The State fire service training systems and the NFA will manage a system for assessing courses submitted by individual States; this is essentially a peer-review process using geographically distant States to perform the assessment. The NFA will provide assistance to the review committee. Endorsed courses are NFA courses that are delivered locally by local instructors. Students in NFA-endorsed courses will become eligible to receive NFA certificates, and thus be registered in the NETC student database.

Endorsed courses will be available for distribution to other States that may not have adequate resources to develop the course. The States involved in the transaction will manage the processes for exchange, cost recovery and instructor training.

1. Step(s) to Achieve:

- Identify the policies and procedures for having a course endorsed by NFA; this would include the criteria that each course must meet. (This should also address the revision of endorsed courses).

- Identify the endorsement committee (made up of State representatives), and identify the NFA point of contact for this program.
  - Establish a page on the USFA Web site for this information to be available, as well as a list of the approved NFA endorsed courses.
  - Provide a mechanism for customers to link to the offering State organization for further information on a specific course.
  - Other steps may become necessary, and will be identified as the program evolves.
2. Estimated Time Frame: On-going effort
3. Estimated Cost: Considerable staff time will be involved in reviewing the programs.
4. Outcome:
- National system of course recognition and reciprocity.
  - More students receiving NFA endorsed training.
  - States will have a “pool” of courses to select from that are equivalent to NFA courses.
  - Courses will be available for delivery, that NFA may not have had the resources/staff to develop.
  - Increased partnering among Federal, State and local government and private sector organizations to deliver training.
  - States will receive courses that meet their local needs within timeframes that are more useful to them.

Conclusion:

The Core Mission Team supports this recommendation.

Submitted by:

Action Plan Team: Core Mission

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APPROVED/Date

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